



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 25, 2009

Electricity

'Undetermined' Transmission Line Problem, Not Mount Redoubt Volcanic Eruption, Caused 28,000 HEA Customers to Lose Power in Alaska, March 23

According to a utility spokesperson, approximately 28,000 Homer Electric Association (HEA) customers in Alaska were without power on March 23. The outage is being linked to an 'undetermined' problem with the power transmission line that links Kenai Peninsula to Anchorage, and not the volcanic eruption at Mount Redoubt as many local authorities had originally anticipated.

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/032409/new_294808248.shtml

Blizzard, Ice Jam along Missouri River Cause Severe Flooding in North Dakota River Basins

Army Corps of Engineers Cut Water Releases at Garrison Dam, 614 MW of Hydro Power Shut March 25

Flood warnings have been issued for Bismarck and surrounding areas March 25 as an ice jam along the Missouri River combined with a blizzard has caused major flooding, leading to more than 1,000 people to be evacuated from the area on the evening of March 24. The Missouri River is expected to crest between 39 and 41 feet in Fargo, North Dakota on March 27. The Army Corps of Engineers cut water releases for the first time ever from the Garrison Dam (by 1/3) to ease flooding, thereby reducing the power output from the dam's hydroelectric plants. The move has prompted the Western Area Power Administration to buy electricity on the open market to meet obligations to its customers. President Obama has since declared North Dakota a federal disaster area.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5Sllmi4SoQ_N4HJvwHE0ZAD974VGQG0

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/weather/03/25/north.dakota.flooding/index.html>

North Dakota Department of Emergency Services Situation Report:

<http://www.nd.gov/des/uploads/resources/335/3-25-09-summaryreport-17.pdf>

Mirant's 312 MW Pittsburg Unit 5 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by March 24.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903241515.html>

NRC to Extend Relicensing Period for Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vermont while Agency Considers Nuclear Waste Issue

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has agreed to extend the relicensing period for both the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vermont as well as the Pilgrim nuclear plant in Massachusetts, in part to allow time to study the possibility of storage of spent fuel rods at each site.

<http://www.wbz.com/pages/4070641.php>

Invenergy's 570 MW St Clair Gas-fired Unit in Ontario Shut March 25

Reuters, 07:41 March 25, 2009

TransAlta's 280 MW Sundance Coal-fired Unit 1 in Alberta Shut March 24

Reuters, 21:16 March 24, 2009

Petroleum

Power Disruption Reported at Tesoro's 72,000 b/d Kenai, Alaska Refinery March 23

According to the refinery manager, the electricity outage lasted approximately one hour during which time the refinery reduced operating rates while running on reserve power.

Bloomberg News, 16:32 March 24, 2009

Valero Shuts 22,000b/d FCC Unit at its 340,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery, Possibly Indefinitely

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Valero to add a wet gas scrubber to reduce the pollution coming from the 22,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) unit by the year 2010, or to shut the unit permanently. A Valero spokesperson told reporters the company has shut the unit for the time being while analysis is performed on the cost benefits of adding such pollution controls.

Reuters. 16:46 March 24, 2009

Natural Gas

Power Failure Reported at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 24

According to a filing with state regulators, a power failure caused the Goldsmith Gas Plant to shutdown. The report said that as soon as an unidentified third party installed a new transformer, the plant began receiving power and was then placed back online.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121792>

Anadarko's MIGC Pipeline Declares Force Majeure due to Severe Snow Storm in Eastern Wyoming March 24

In a notice to shippers, the MIGC natural gas pipeline declared force majeure on deliveries due to the effects of a major snow storm in eastern Wyoming which prohibited field personnel to access facilities. The MIGC pipeline systems link the production fields in northeast Wyoming with the KM Interstate Gas Transmission Company system which provides transportation of natural gas southeastward into Nebraska.

<http://www.migc.com/notices/032409FMstorm.txt>

http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/analysis_publications/ngpipeline/central.html

Colorado Interstate Gas Company Extends Declared Force Majeure at Kim Compressor Station in Colorado on Mechanical Outage

In a recent notice to shippers, Colorado Interstate Gas (CIG) has extended the force majeure it declared at the Kim Compressor Station located near the Picketwire Constraint (PWC) in Southern Colorado through April 3. Capacity at PWC will remain at 355 MMcf/d until the beginning of Gas Day April 3, 2009, when it will be raised to full capacity to 414 MMcf/d. CIG declared the Force Majeure on February 25, following an unforeseen mechanical outage to one compressor unit.

<http://ebb.cigco.com/ebbCIG/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=CIG&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=7652>

Update: Falcon Gas Storage's Recent Open Season in Texas Collects Bids Exceeding Capacity

An open season recently conducted by Falcon Gas Storage for 6 Bcf of storage capacity at its Worsham-Steed and Hill-Lake Gas Storage facilities in north Texas garnered bids that were more than three times above available capacity; roughly 20 Bcf was sought from nine companies.

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/7754879.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

Other News

Department of Interior Secretary Salazar Issues Order to Spur Renewable Energy Development on U.S. Public Lands

Secretary of the Interior Salazar issued a Secretarial Order making the production, development, and delivery of renewable energy top priorities for the Department. The Order establishes an energy and climate change task force with intentions to spur this agenda and identify specific zones on U.S. public lands where Interior, along with cooperation from the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, can facilitate a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy.

http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/031109c.html

View Secretary Order here: http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/SOenergy.pdf

EPA to Review Mountaintop Mining Projects, Cautions Army Corps of Engineers Not to Issue Permits for Two New Projects in West Virginia and Kentucky

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced March 24 it will begin reviewing 'dozens' of coal-mining permits for their potential impacts on streams and wetlands, targeting specifically a practice called mountaintop removal that blasts away whole portions of mountains, sending the mining waste into streams and wetlands. The EPA has the authority to review and veto any permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Air Act. The EPA then urged the Army Corps of Engineers not to issue permits for two new projects, one in Kentucky and one in West Virginia unless their environmental impacts were reduced.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d985312f6895893b852574ac005f1e40/bd03fe27c0c12718852575830062f672!OpenDocument>

Reuters, 16:52 March 24, 2009

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 25, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	52.60	47.94	101.51
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.13	3.78	8.99

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

PetroChina to Cut its 2009 Oil Output by 4.3 Percent to 832.8 MMbbls, PetroChina President Says

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=74335

Nigerian Oil Unions Cancel Strike Following Government Promises to Improve Security in Niger Delta

Reuters, 13:31 March 24, 2009

Diesel Tanker Collision Spills 4,000 Gallons Causing Fire in Washington State, Closes Highway 195 in Both Directions for 10-Mile Stretch March 23 Traffic Resumes March 24

http://www.kxly.com/Global/story.asp?S=10053410&nav=menu683_2

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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